

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Previously presented) A base metal alloy powder comprising:
at least about 58% by weight Ni,
about 0.2% to 30% by weight Cu, and
about 6% to 40% by weight Cr,
wherein said powder comprises particles which are substantially spherical and comprise an average particle size from about 25nm to about 700nm.
2. (Previously presented) An alloy powder according to claim 1, wherein said alloy further comprises at least one of the elements selected from Ag, Al, Au, B, Be, Ca, Ce, Co, Fe, Ge, Hf, Mg, La, Nb, Mn, Mo, Si, Sn, P, Pd, Pt, Ta, Ti, V, W, Y, Zn and Zr in an amount of about 0.1 to 20% by weight based on total metal.
3. (Original) An alloy powder according to claim 2, wherein said alloy further comprises at least two of said additional elements.
4. (Original) An alloy powder according to claim 2, wherein the said additional elements are present in said alloy in an amount of up to 6% by weight.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Withdrawn) An alloy powder according to claim 1, wherein said alloy is a copper-nickel-chromium alloy comprising from about 0.2 to 30% by weight of nickel.

9. (Withdrawn) An alloy powder according to claim 8, wherein said alloy comprises from about 0.2 to 30% by weight of chromium.

10. (Withdrawn) An alloy powder according to claim 1, wherein said alloy is a copper-tin-nickel alloy comprising about 1 to 30% by weight of nickel.

11. (Withdrawn) An alloy powder according to claim 1, wherein said alloy comprises at least 60% by weight of copper.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) An alloy powder according to claim 1 having an average particle size of about 100 nm to 700 nm.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Withdrawn) An alloy powder according to claim 1 comprising copper and at least one alloying element wherein the temperature at which onset of oxidation occurs is at least about 250° C.

17. (Withdrawn) An alloy powder according to claim 16 comprising copper and at least one alloying element wherein the temperature at which onset of oxidation occurs is between about 325° C. and 400° C.

18. (Original) An alloy powder according to claim 1, comprising nickel and at least one alloying element wherein the temperature at which onset of oxidation occurs is at least about 500° C.

19. (Original) An alloy powder as in claim 18, wherein the temperature at which onset of oxidation occurs is between about 520° C. and 600° C.

20. (Original) A laminated ceramic capacitor comprising an internal electrode fabricated from an alloy powder according to claim 1.

21. (Previously presented) An alloy powder according to claim 1, wherein said alloy further comprises at least 15 ppm Zr based on the total metal.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)